As there was a fall in the international prices of crude oil, oil companies reduced the prices of petrol by up to Rs. 1.26 per litre with effect from November 15, 2004.

Clearance of investment project in Bangalore

467. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the Rs. 178.90 crores investment proposal of a Canadian firm called Royal Indian Raj International Corporation to set up an integrated township in Bangalore;

(b) whether this is amongst the 25 foreign direct investment proposals worth Rs. 201.58 crores; and

(c) if so, the details of the Royal Indian Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has allowed M/s. Royal Indian Raj international Corporation, Canada to set up a wholly owned subsidiary to establish an integrated township development which will comprise of various components like residential, commercial, IT campuses, Industrial, leisure and theme parks in Devanhalli, Bangalore, subject to fulfillment of guidelines as notified by Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation for development of integrated township.

Withdrawal of Tax Interest on NRE Deposits

468. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have withdrawn tax interest on Non-Resident External (NRE) Deposits and Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) Deposits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with revenue implications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The effective date of withdrawal of tax exemption on deposits in Non-Resident (External) account and Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) account is from the 1st day of April, 2006 i.e., exemption stands

withdrawn from the assessment year 2006-07 onwards. The revenue implications would be perceived once the income from this source comes to tax.

Disinvestment of loss making PSUs

469. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided divestment of some loss making PSUs and that a Group of Ministers (GoMs) has been formed to identify and decide price etc. for such Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof with terms of reference to GoMs; and

(c) the details of recommendations made by GoMs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Low productivity of PSU bank staff

470. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during 2003-04 a PSU bank staffer did Rs. 2.4 crore of business, while his counterpart in a private bank did 75 percent better, clocking Rs. 4.2 crore of business;

(b) if so, inspite of this low business profile staff of PSU, they are demanding more salary and perquisites than their counterparts in private banks are getting and often go on strike;

(c) whether Government have ever confronted these PSU bank-employees with their low productivity in the shape of getting business; and

(d) if so, whether any steps are being taken to link the payment of higher salary to matching productivity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.